

Message Text

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SUBJECT: LOPEZ CALLS "INSTITUTIONALIZATION" HIS MAJOR POLITICAL
GOAL

1. SUMMARY: PRESIDENT LOPEZ DELIVERED A MAJOR ADDRESS IN
MEDELLIN ON NOV 2 IN WHICH HE CRITICIZED "ANACHRONISTIC,
PETTY, BUREAUCRATIC EMPIRE-BUILDING AND EXCESSIVE CONCERN OVER
PERSONAL GAIN AT THE EXPENSE OF THE PUBLIC GOOD, WHICH ARE
LEADING TO A DISINTEGRATION OF COLOMBIAN SOCIETY. HE CALLED
FOR A RENEWED DEPENDENCE ON PUBLIC AND PRIVATE INSTITUTIONS
SO THAT LAW MAY RULE OVER MEN. THE SPEECH, WELL RECEIVED BY
THE PRESS, GIVES MOMENTUM TO THE ADMINISTRATION'S CAMPAIGN
AGAINST CRIME AND CORRUPTION. END SUMMARY

2. PRESIDENT LOPEZ, IN A SPEECH TO ANTIOQUIAN DEPARTMENTAL
OFFICIALS, CALLED FOR RENEWED EMPHASIS ON THE INSTITUTIONS
OF GOVERNMENT AND OTHER SECTORS OF SOCIETY TO RID THE COUNTRY
OF THE "MULTITUDE OF DEBILITATING SELF-INTERESTED POWER NUCLEI
CENTERED AROUND INDIVIDUALS". HE COMPARED MODERN COLOMBIA WITH
THE COUNTRY 100 YEARS AGO WHEN, DURING THE LAST YEARS
OF THE FEDERATED "UNITED STATES OF COLOMBIA", THE NATION
BORDERED ON ANARCHY AND COLLAPSE. COLOMBIA, HE SAID,
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"CANNOT LIVE AS THOUGH 100 YEARS HAD NOT PASSED, CONTINUING

TO BE A COMMUNITY OF LORDS AND LANDOWNERS AND THE REST A GANG OF LABORERS..." CALLING FOR A TURN TO INSTITUTIONS INSTEAD OF SELF-SERVING CACIQUES, HE SAID, "WHAT CHARACTERIZES A DEMOCRACY IS THE PREDOMINANCE OF... RULES OVER THE WHIMS OF THE RULERS".

3. LOPEZ CRITICIZED THE GOVERNMENT BUREAUCRACY FOR OFTEN BEING AN APPARATUS FOR MAINTAINING POLITICAL POWER BASES AND THE ENEMY OF ELECTED LEADERS. HE CRITICIZED THE PRIVATE SECTOR FOR FREQUENTLY IGNORING THE PUBLIC GOOD IN FAVOR OF PRIVATE GAIN FOR A FEW INDIVIDUALS. HE HEAPED SPECIAL SCORN ON THOSE APPOINTED OFFICIALS WHO TREAT THEIR AGENCIES AS PERSONAL FIEFS, AND, WITHOUT REGARD FOR THE HEALTH OF THE NATION, USE THEIR POSITIONS TO DOLE OUT FAVORS. HE ALSO CRITICIZED LOCALLY-ORIENTED ECONOMIC DECISIONS DESIGNED TO ENHANCE THE PERSONAL POWER OF POLITICIANS. "THESE", WARNED LOPEZ, "ARE THE DEFECTS OF AN ANACHRONISTIC PASTORAL SOCIETY IN WHICH EACH FUNCTIONARY EXERCISES STEWARDSHIP SUBJECT TO NEITHER RULES NOR LAWS".

4. THE PRESIDENT CALLED FOR A RESTORATION OF FAITH IN DIS-INTERESTED INSTITUTIONS, ESPECIALLY GOVERNMENTAL, TO PREVENT THE DISSOLUTION OF SOCIETY CHALLENGED BY CRIME AND PETTY LOCAL CONCERNS. HE POINTED OUT THAT ONLY THROUGH RESPECT FOR INSTITUTIONS CAN THE FRUITS OF DEMOCRACY BE ENJOYED BY ALL. PARAPHRASING THE WORDS OF A FORMER PRESIDENT, HE SAID "TOTAL INSTUTIONALIZATION OR CATASTROPHE" " MY PRIMARY CONCERN", HE STATED " IS TO TURN OVER TO MY SUCCESSOR ANINSTITUTIONALIZED REPUBLIC".

5. EDITORIALS IN MAJOR NEWSPAPERS UNIFORMLY ENDORSED LOPEZ'S REMARKS.

6. COMMENT: LOPEZ'S VIGOROUS PRESENTATION UNDERLINED RECENT GOVERNMENT MOVES AGAINST WHAT THE GOVERNMENT PERCEIVES AS AN ALARMING RISE IN LAWLESSNESS AND CORRUPTION. REACTING TO PUBLIC CLAMOR FOR ACTION, LOPEZ HAS ALREADY IMPOSED A STATE OF SIEGE, SENT ADDITIONAL TROOPS TO NERVOUS ANTIOQUIA, INCREASED THE NATIONAL POLICE BY 4,000 THIS YEAR WITH PLANS FOR 10,000 MORE NEXT YEAR, AND HAS CALLED UPON HIS CABINET TO FORMULATE A PLAN OF ACTION TO BATTLE CROME, LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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TERRORISM, AND RESTORE ADMINISTRATIVE MORALITY. THE ADDRESS WAS ALSO A MAJOR STATEMENT OF HIS PHILOSOPHY OF GOVERNMENT. IT CALLED ATTENTION TO THE UNDERLYING SOCIETAL WEAKNESS OF "PERSONALISM" WHICH PERMITS AN ATTITUDE OF "THE PUBLIC BE DAMNED". INSTITUTIONALIZATION IS LIKELY TO BE A RECURRING THEME IN THE DAYS AHEAD.
VAKY

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